Australian Bureau of Statistics

6359.0 - Forms of Employment, Australia, November 2009 Quality Declaration

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 29/04/2010

MEDIA RELEASE

April 29, 2010 Embargoed: 11.30 am (Canberra Time) 47/2010

1 in 5 Australian workers are casual employees: ABS

In November 2009, one in five, or 20% of Australian workers were casual employees, that is, they did not have paid holiday or sick leave entitlements. This represents over two million people and was a 0.7 percentage point increase from November 2008.

The majority (61%) of employed people were employees with leave entitlements, while a further 10% were independent contractors and 9% were other business operators.

Women were more likely than men to not have paid leave entitlements (25% compared with 16%).

Over half (58%) of all employed people in the Accommodation and food services industry did not have paid leave entitlements. Other industries, where there was a high proportion of employed people without paid leave entitlements, included:

- Retail trade (35%)
- Arts and recreation services (32%).

The industries with the lowest proportion of employed people without paid leave entitlements were Financial and insurance services, as well as Mining (both 6%) .

The occupation with the highest proportion of employed people without paid leave entitlements was Sales (44%), followed by Labourers (41%). Occupations with a low proportion of employed people without paid leave entitlements included Managers (4%) and Professionals (9%).

Almost half of all employees (45%) were entitled to paid maternity/paternity leave in November 2009. This was an increase on the 44% recorded in November 2008.

Just over half (52%) of all independent contractors were aged between 35 to 54 years, compared to 43% of employees in this age group.

Further details can be found in *Forms of Employment, Australia*, *November 2009* (cat no. 6359.0).

Media notes:

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This page last updated 28 April 2011

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